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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/005,596	11/07/2001	Alex E. Henderson	21526-05579	8121

7590 12/14/2006
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN
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EXAMINER

QURESHI, AFSAR M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2616

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/005,596	Applicant(s) HENDERSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Afsar M. Qurashi	Art Unit 2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 12-17 and 19-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 12-17, 19-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to amendment received on 9/26/2006. Amendments to claims are entered as requested; claims 7-11, 18 and 23 are cancelled.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed on 9/26/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant amended independent claims and argued that the amended limitation "a session memory coupled to the switch to store session identifiers associated with each packet, the session identifiers to enable the switch to transmit the packets in a session based on associated session processing rules" is not disclosed in the cited art of Michels (US 6,161,144). Other amendments are merely cosmetic and have not changed the scope of the claims.

Examiner contends that primary memory 58 (figure 3) still reads on the claimed memory since the cited reference teaches that switching allows nodes on one segment communicate with nodes on other segments and to other switching devices. The nodes communicate with each other through TCP protocol. One of ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate that communication through TCP protocol is conducted in sessions. It would also be obvious to a skilled artisan that memory 58 of the cited art would functionally be the same as claimed herein.

Art Unit: 2616

Examiner believes that the non-final rejection pertaining to existing claims, mailed on 6/26/2006, still reads on all the limitations claimed herein.

3. *The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.*

4. Claims 1-6, 12-17 and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Michels et al. (US 6,161,144).

Claims 1, 2, 12 and 17. Michels et al. ('Michels' hereinafter) disclose a network switching device 50 (figure 3), receiving network frames and passing the frames to the plurality of search engines 66... (search resources). The search engines determine ports for frames (see fig. 5, also see col. 1, lines 55-61) and transmit the search response, based on the packet request, to the forwarding ports. Michels further discloses primary memory 58 coupled to the switch. The memory 58 (*session storage device*) has lookup table used to locate iterations of the search, which in turn enable the switch to allow a session to be maintained across multiple packets (see figure 3 and col. 5, lines 26-37).

Michels does not specifically disclose a parser generating packet search request. However, as one of ordinary skill in the art would realize that any router, switch or network (see figure 3) can be utilized for generating and forwarding a search request via media interface 56 (fig.3).

Art Unit: 2616

Claims 3 and 4 Michels further discloses that media interface 56 reformats the frames in response to modification request from the network (see col. 4, lines 46-65).

Claims 5 and 6. Michels discloses a management processor coupled to search engines that maintains the lookup table in memories 58, 70 (fig.3) wherein search, by search engine, is performed depending on entries in the lookup table (shortest queue). As to claim 6, already discussed that the media interface 56 allows the search engine to transmit the modified frames to particular network depending on decision logic 72 (col. 6, lines 29-57).

Claims 8, 13, 15, 16, 19, 21 and 22. Michels discloses that requests are made for packet search and to reformat or modify the packet based on search (see rejection of claims 3 and 4). A request to modify is inherent. Further, media interface 56 can functionally be considered as session device sending group of packets that are transmitted to another device or computer in the network (see col. 4, lines 58-65)

Claim 14. As discussed above forwarding decision logic 72 (fig.3) receives packet response from search engine (second means) and forwards the frames to the requested ports (see col. 6, lines 20-28).

Claim 20. As discussed in the rejection of claim 1 above, the network switching device 50, disclosed by Michels, is used to transmit the packet response from the packet resource to the network (see figure 5).

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Afsar M. Qureshi whose telephone number is (571) 272 3178.

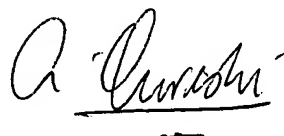
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Field Lynn can be reached on (571) 272 2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO

Application/Control Number: 10/005,596

Page 6

Art Unit: 2616

Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call
800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Qureshi", with a horizontal line drawn underneath.

AFSAR QURESHI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
12/8/2006